



NEWSLETTER

of BS-ERA.NET Project

Networking on Science and Technology in the Black Sea Region



HIGHLIGHTS

- *Towards a joint approach to a sustainable S&T programme in and with the Black Sea Region*
- *Minutes of the short term visits in Italy and Turkey*
- *Information Contact Points*

ISSUE 2

JULY – DECEMBER, 2009

Towards a joint approach to a sustainable S&T programme in and with the Black Sea Region

The Black Sea Region as a unique bridge between Europe and Asia has a high potential of development set against a rich historical and cultural background. The region has nevertheless become very dynamic and plays an important role as a link between the enlarged Europe and its neighborhood.

S&T cooperation in and with the Black Sea Region has to be one of the main instruments for further and sustainable development in an agreed framework.

In this respect the FP7 project “Networking of S&T in the Black Sea Region” - BS ERA.NET aims at intensifying and strengthening S&T cooperation between selected third countries and Europe by the coordination of MS/AC S&T programmes towards and with those countries. This will be achieved through several analytical exercises (mappings, foresight studies, inventories of research institutions and other reports), the establishment of a pilot joint funding scheme and a joint funding research programme.

The international conference “Towards a joint approach to a sustainable S&T programme in and with the Black Sea Region” to be held in Bucharest on December, 8th and 9th, 2009 has as main objectives:

- presenting and reflecting the outcome of the analytical work performed so far within the BS ERA.NET project and deriving the first ideas for a regional research program;
- advertising to policy stakeholders and S & T program owners the potential of the BS-region for enhanced S&T cooperation in the region and with partners beyond the region;

- allowing an exchange among S & T programme owners from the region with actively involving EECA representatives and key S & T programme owners beyond the BS-region;
- linking-up our up-coming activities to other regional initiatives;
- share good practice from other regional cooperation - Nordic Cooperation and Mediterranean Cooperation.

The conference will provide space for fruitful and constructive discussions by bringing together experts and decision makers from the Black Sea Region and beyond, representatives of the European Commission, of International organizations and of involved regional initiatives. It will offer the opportunity to widen and share the analytical knowledge on S&T programmes in and with the Black Sea region and to pave the grounds for a common strategic approach to an S&T regional programme.

Participants:

Experts/decision makers are invited to take part in the conference from:

- European Commission;
- Governmental institutions;
- International organizations;
- Academia;
- Research institutions;
- Individual experts.

Dr. Serban Panaitescu
BS-ERA.NET Coordinator

Activities

Short-term exchanges of programme managers for information and best practice identification

The purpose of the short-term exchanges is to improve the framework of existing activities (e.g. removal of barriers for future multilateral RTDI initiatives; reshaping of RTDI designs following policy recommendations and good practices examples). The visits of programme managers from Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine took place in Italy and Turkey on November 8-10, 2009. Host for the visits are programme owners holding RD funding opportunities which could serve as good practice example for the upcoming Black Sea ERANET joint call. The short term visits had two main objectives:

- To gather information about existing national, regional and international R&D programmes. The visits served to deepen already existing information about the host programme owner and their programmes. These programmes might be considered as a model/best-practice and can help in shaping the programme for BS Joint Call being launched in 2010.
- To facilitate capacity building for the BS region. Visiting institution was informed about policies, procedures and mechanisms of the host institutions programmes.

2nd BS-ERA.NET Executive Board Meeting

2nd BS-ERA.NET Executive Board (EB) Meeting was held on 19-20 October, 2009 in Athens, Greece. During the EB meeting, a detailed overview of the project was presented by the Work Package Leaders and critical partners. A discussion was carried out concerning the Programme Owners (POs) having expressed an interest to participate in a BS Joint Call. The EB agreed on investigating ways and means to encourage and involve POs outside the consortium in Joint Actions. Finally, the concept and the agenda of the upcoming Conference were thoroughly discussed.



BS-ERA.NET Steering Board Meeting

BS-ERA.NET Steering Board meeting to review existing systems and finalise specifications for information tool and analysis was held on 16-17 July, 2009 in Bonn, Germany.

Members

Information Contact Points Network

The communication and dissemination activities have are structured on three main pillars: website, network of contact points, electronic newsletter.

Primary network of contact points was established.

Armenia

National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia

Contact person: Tigran Arzumanyan

E-mail: tarznip@sci.am

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, National Information Point on EU FP in Azerbaijan

Contact person: Siyaush Azakov

E-mail: azakov_s@hotmail.com

Bulgaria

Ministry of Education and Science of Bulgaria

Contact person: Lora Pavlova

E-mail: l.pavlova@mon.bg

France

National Centre for Scientific Research

Contact person: Virginie Robin

E-mail: virginie.robin@cns-dir.fr

Georgia

Georgia National Science Foundation

Contact person: Tamar Nozadze

E-mail: nozadzetamar@gmail.com

Germany

International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research at the Project Management Agency

Contact person: Akin Akkoyun

E-mail: akin.akkoyun@dlr.de

Greece

Ministry of Education, Life Long Learning and Religious Affairs, The General Secretariat for Research and Technology, International S&T Cooperation Directorate, European Union Division

Contact person: Vassiliki Pletsas

E-mail: vpletsa@gstrt.gr

Italy

Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and the Environment

Contact person: Milena Stefanova

E-mail: milena.stefanova@enea.it

Moldova

Center for International Projects of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova

Contact person: Lidia Romanciuc

E-mail: intprojects@asm.md

Romania

National Centre for Programme Management

Contact person: Speranta Rasan

E-mail: speranta_rasan@cnmp.ro

Turkey

International Cooperation Department of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey

Contact person: İlater Haliloğlu

E-mail: bseranet@tubitak.gov.tr

Ukraine

National Technical University of Ukraine "Kyiv Polytechnic Institute"

Contact person: Sergiy Shukayev

E-mail: s.shukayev@kpi.ua

News from the Region

Armenia

On October 28, 2009, the State Committee of Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of RA (Chairman Prof. S. Haroutiunian), the National Academy of Sciences of RA (President R. Martirosyan), CNRS of the Republic of France (Director of Moscow Branch V. Mayer) and the NAS RA Institute for Physical Research (Director A. Papoyan) signed an Agreement on the Creation of Armenian-French International Associated Laboratory.

The signing of the Agreement was the result of the competition organized within the framework of the Agreement concluded between SCS and CNRS on January 20, 2009.

The above mentioned competition included the following three programs: Collaborative Bilateral Research Projects, creation of International Associated Laboratory and International Research Group. As a result, nine projects on Collaborative Bilateral Research, two on International Associated Laboratories and one on International Research Group were selected for funding.

Information from: <http://www.scs.am/eng.php>

Armenia is participating in the Black Sea Interconnection (BSI) project, which is being implemented under 7th Framework Programme of European Commission. The BSI project will develop a high-speed backbone network among the NRENs of the South Caucasus countries and enable connectivity to the pan-European research and education GÉANT2 network.

The project involves the development of strategies for interconnecting the existing infrastructures in the region, realization of the connections and supplying operational support for the established network. The existence of interconnections between the South Caucasus countries and connection to GÉANT2 with reasonable capacities will enable introduction of new services to the region and will be an important step towards the integration of the scientific potential in the region with Europe.

BSI Project was presented at a Special Session on September 29, 2009 called "ARMENIA IN EU FP7 ICT PROGRAMME" (BSI & SEE-GRID-SCI) within Seventh International Conference on Computer Science and Information Technologies.

Details at: <http://www.csit.am>

France

International exchanges between CNRS and the three countries of the South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) 2009-2010

Nineteen projects have been selected for a period of two years between CNRS and the National Academy of Science of Azerbaijan (7 projects), the State Committee of Science of the Republic of Armenia (9 projects) and the Georgian National Science Foundation (3 projects). These projects will fund visits in partner countries for around 30 days in total, in each direction. Projects with Azerbaijan and Armenia cover different scientific disciplines, whereas the Georgian National Science Foundation decided to cover only three scientific fields (mathematics, life sciences and environment). For Georgia, one project by scientific field will be selected for substantial funding from the Foundation.

The call for international exchanges will be renewed in 2010 for the 2011-2012 period.

Greece

The Second International Scientific Conference "Black Sea Energy and Climate Change" took place in Athens on 8-9 October 2009. The Conference was held under the auspices of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship of BSEC and organized by the Energy Policy and Develop-

ment Centre (KEPA). The two-day conference highlighted issues in energy and climate change, particularly in relation to policy, clean energy technologies, electrical network, renewable energy sources, hydrocarbons and regional projects.

Information from: <http://www.bsec-organization.org>

The International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) hosted the 2nd International Black Sea Symposium on "The Black Sea Region: the State of Play and the Way Forward" was held on the island of Kalymnos, Dodecanese/Greece, on 30 June - 5 July 2009. The International Black Sea Symposium (IBSS) provided a forum for study, dialogue and networking in a multicultural and interdisciplinary environment, thus contributing to understanding and cooperation in the Black Sea region and beyond. Young professionals primarily from the countries of the wider Black Sea area, EU member states, the United States and Central Asia was the Symposium target group. They had the opportunity to learn about issues of importance for the future development of the Black Sea region during a four-day intensive course of interactive sessions led by prominent experts.

Details at: <http://www.icbss.org/>

Romania

The Austro French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe has, over the past years, concentrated the bulk of its work on promoting the accession of the new democracies of East and Central Europe to the European Union, a focus that lately has also turned to the countries of the Western Balkans. It has now turned its attention for the first time to the Black Sea Region and the special role it plays in the neighbourhood of the European Union.

This was the scope of an international conference: "The Black Sea Region: Link between an Enlarged Europe and its New Neighbourhood" which was held in Bucharest on October, 15th and 16th, 2009.

Details at: <http://www.oefz.at>

The Ministry of Regional Development and Housing of Romania, acting as Joint Managing Authority for the Joint Operational Programme "Black Sea 2007-2013" published the notice for the launch of the first call for proposals. The deadline for submitting project proposal was 12th of October 2009.

The indicative amount of ENPI funds available under this first call is 3.311.369 EURO, and Turkey participates with IPA funds amounting to 1.339.401 EURO. The cofinancing of the EU is 90 % of the total eligible costs at project level.

The projects could be jointly submitted and implemented by partnerships that will always involve partners from one or several Member States (Bulgaria, Greece, Romania) and from one or several partner countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, R. Moldova, Russia, Ukraine) and/or Turkey.

The Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007-2013 (hereafter Black Sea JOP) is a programme under the European Neighborhood & Partnership Instrument (ENPI) of the EU. It aims to contribute to: "a stronger and sustainable economic and social development of the regions of the Black Sea Basin".

The programme's three specific objectives, are:

- Promoting economic and social development in the border areas;
- Working together to address common challenges;
- Promoting local, people-to-people cooperation.

Information from: <http://www.blacksea-cbc.net/>

On November 7, 2009 was announced an open call for Moldovan-Romanian collaborative research projects in the framework of the S&T Cooperation Programme between the National Authority for

Scientific Research of Romania (ANCS) and the Academy of Sciences of Moldova (ASM) for the years 2010-2012, signed on October 23, 2008.

The aim of the Programme is to strengthen the cooperation, links between the researchers of the two countries in all scientific fields and the implementation of scientific results in common interest fields. The programme also envisages the facilitation of the integration of the Moldovan scientific community into the research and development system of the European Union, preparation of Moldovan teams to participate in community programmes, especially the Seventh Framework Programme, as well as develop links towards the collaboration within regional programmes as those of the BSEC.

Thematic priorities which will be funded within the programme are the following: environment; agriculture; health; technologies; products and services; science and information resources management.

The deadline for the submission of project proposals is December 21, 2009. Selected projects will start on June 1, 2010 for a period of 32 months.

Turkey

Bogazici University Department of Political Science and International Relations and University of Shizouka, Wider Europe Research Center organized an international symposium "The Black Sea Region in International Relations: Old Issues, New Trends".

The symposium was sponsored by the Ministry of Education of Japan and took place on October 1-2, 2009

Information from: <http://www.harvard-bssp.org>

European Commission opens negotiations with Turkey upon accession to the Energy Community

On 9 September 2009, a Turkish delegation lead by Mr Yusuf Yazar, Deputy Undersecretary for Energy, met in Vienna with a European Commission negotiating team headed by Mr Fabrizio Barbaso, Deputy Director General for Energy, for a first negotiating session in view of Turkey's accession to the Energy Community Treaty. "Turkey is carrying out fundamental reforms in order to address its huge energy challenge. Turkey is well prepared and has an important role to play in the Energy Community. I hope that the negotiations will proceed swiftly and could be concluded in the coming months" commented Commissioner Piebalgs.

The first negotiating session focused on the progress of reforms in the Turkish energy sector and the related legislative changes for the implementation of the Energy Community Treaty. The meeting allowed for a comprehensive review of the requirements to be met in relation with the Turkish energy sector policy and reflected the advanced state of reforms in Turkey, in particular in the electricity sector. After the signature in Ankara on 13 July 2009 of the Intergovernmental Agreement regarding the Nabucco Project (IP/09/1114), the

opening of negotiations concerning Turkey's accession to the Energy Community Treaty represents an important milestone in the EU-Turkey energy cooperation.

Ukraine

Preliminary Management Plan Submission

On the request of the Ministry for the Environmental Protection of Ukraine ECBSea Project (Environmental collaboration for the Black Sea: Georgia, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine) has developed Preliminary Management Plan for the Small Phyllophora Field Marine Protected Area in Karkinitsky Bay, Black Sea and submitted it to the Ministry on June 17, 2009. The main purpose of this document is to assist in training specialists and managers who do or will have a role in the management of MPAs in Ukraine, as well as other countries bordering the Black Sea. The plan is based on current best practice approaches in which a site's conservation features are managed according to factors and attributes.

Details at: <http://www.ecbsea.org>

Upcoming Events

Bulgaria

Center for SouthEast European Studies hosts conference "Toward a New Transatlantic Strategy for the Wider Black Sea Region". The event will take place in Sofia Bulgaria on November 30-December 1, 2009.

Details at: <http://www.harvard-bssp.org>

Georgia

The 9th Georgian International Oil, Gas, Energy and Infrastructure Conference and Showcase GIOGIE 2010 will take place Tbilisi, Georgia on 24-25 March, 2010.

Details at: <http://www.giogie.com>

Greece

An International COST Conference on Environmental Governance in the Mediterranean and Beyond: Approaches, Challenges and Prospects will take place Athens, Greece on 28-30 April 2010.

Details at: <http://www.glogov.org>

Turkey

9th Regional Turkey, Caspian, Black Sea and Russia Conference and Showcase of Telecommunications and IT technologies will be held on 28-29 April, 2010 in Istanbul, Turkey.

Details at: <http://www.caspiantelecoms.com>

Ukraine

Seventh International Conference "Black sea Grain. Black sea region: AGRARIAN STRATEGIES IN 2010+" will be held on April 21-22, 2010 in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Details at: <http://www.blackseagrain.net>

Contact Information

Dr. Serban Panaitescu BS-ERA.NET Coordinator e-mail: panaitescu@cnmp.ro

Speranta Rasan Project Manager e-mail: speranta_rasan@cnmp.ro

National Centre for Programme Management 21-25 Mendeleev Str., 1st district, Bucharest, 010362, ROMANIA

Tel: +4021 311 59 92; +4021 311 95 92, Fax: +4021 311 59 92